

HONORING TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, JEFFREY KOCAB AND DAVID CURTIS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my community as we mourn the deaths of two young Tampa Police Department Officers, Jeffrey Kocab and David Curtis, who were fatally shot in the line of duty.

Tampa families and neighborhoods value the service of the brave officers of the Tampa Police Department. On June 29th 2010 the city lost two valuable members of the forces. The officers were conducting a routine traffic stop when the passenger opened fire, hitting the officers. Both passed away at Tampa General Hospital that same morning.

Jeffrey Kocab began his law enforcement career 2006 and was honored as "Officer of the Year" and "Employee of the Month" on four separate occasions for his outstanding performance. Officer Kocab was an achiever who loved his work. In the fourteen months he was with the Tampa Police Department he established himself as a fine officer. His outstanding police skills allowed him to move through the department's training program at an accelerated pace and his work was a testament to his strong commitment to law enforcement.

David Curtis was a dedicated four-year Tampa officer. A native of Mobile, Alabama Curtis began working for Hillsborough County Sheriffs Department in 2002 where he was part of the Tactical Action Control team. During his tenure there, he went to Mississippi in 2005 to help with the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. He received outstanding evaluations throughout his time at the sheriff's office, but he knew he wanted to one day be a deputy or a police officer on the street. In 2006 he got that opportunity when he began with the Tampa Police Department where he was soon honored as "Employee of the Month" in recognition of his work with a complicated child neglect case. He loved participating in the honor guard and recognizing the people who have given their lives in the line of duty. Officer Curtis was always compassionate with others and was dedicated to his job and community.

Throughout the years we have lost several other police officers and together we honor their memories. Corporal Michael Joseph Roberts was shot and killed in 2009 while investigating a heavily armed man. During his 11 years with the Tampa Police Department he received 33 commendations and awards for his work, including the department's rare "Life Saving Award."

We will also always remember the day of May 19, 1998 when Detectives Ricky J. Childers and Randy Scott Bell were shot while transporting the murder suspect of a 4-year old boy. Both detectives were veteran officers of the Tampa Police Department and had received over 30 letters of commendation each during their service on the force. Their loss motivated changes in the Tampa Police Department's law and policy so officers could better protect themselves while in the line of duty.

On behalf of the generous and appreciative families of the Tampa Bay Area, I am proud to salute the outstanding service of these two young heroes and remember all those who have also sacrificed their life to serve their fellow citizens. I know that their families and communities are proud of them and of their accomplishments. These brave men gave their lives to protecting our city. For that, I rise today before the United States House of Representatives to honor the memory of Officers Jeffrey Kocab and David Curtis.

IN RECOGNITION OF GOOD SAMARITAN RON ROBINSON

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero from my district, Mr. Ron Robinson of Dunn, North Carolina. Mr. Robinson has shown outstanding courage, selflessness and bravery by risking his life to save victims of not one, but two separate car crashes in the past two months.

Once part of the Dunn rescue squad, Ron Robinson quickly put his experience and knowledge to work, helping those in a crucial time of need. A little over a month ago, two young people were in a tragic car accident outside of the Walmart in Dunn, NC. Mr. Robinson, who was shopping at the Walmart as the SUV slammed into the store, was the first to immediately run outside to help the teens trapped inside the vehicle. With his assistance, Triton High senior Dillon Tart, 18, survived the crash with minor injuries. As I honor Mr. Robinson's heroism, I also wish to pause for a moment to mourn Mr. Tart's Triton High classmate, Ashley Moore, who did not survive the crash, despite Mr. Robinson's efforts. This loss does not diminish Mr. Robinson's valor, but does remind us that not all rescues are in our hands.

This past Thursday, July 8, Mr. Robinson once again came face-to-face with a serious car accident, this one off of Interstate 95 in Dunn. The truck involved in the accident was already on fire as Ron approached the crash, but that didn't stop him from crawling into the vehicle and pulling the driver from the flames. Again, Mr. Robinson risked his life to save the life of another.

This kind of bravery and heroism just doesn't happen every day. It is people like Ron Robinson that truly embody the phrase "Good Samaritan" and remind us what it means to fulfill the directive to "help thy neighbor." I don't like to think what might have happened had Ron not been at the scene of those crashes, but fortunately he was and he serves as a true example of what it means to be part of a community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the heroism of an ordinary man performing extraordinary feats. His selflessness and readiness to help those in need is truly something to be admired. We in North Carolina are proud to call Ron Robinson our hometown hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, I was not present for three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Roll No. 434—"yea."

Roll No. 435—"yea."

Roll No. 436—"yea."

CONGRATULATING JAMIE OLIVER FOR HIS EMMY NOMINATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I bring to my colleagues' attention today Jamie Oliver, who has been nominated for an Emmy for his television series, "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," which focused on the children of Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Oliver highlighted the importance of a community's dedication to improving their kid's health through what they eat and fostering cooperative partnerships with the Cabell County School District, a community kitchen, and by working with families one-on-one to reach their goal.

Jamie Oliver's show helped Cabell County School District transform their meals to include more fresh foods, which is helping our children to improve their health from an early age.

As our nation faces an obesity epidemic, we need to encourage every effort to improve the meals served in our schools. "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" did just that—and Cabell County School District is continuing to implement his program. Mr. Oliver is a leader in the fight against obesity and I am thankful that he and his staff were able to share their lessons with West Virginia.

To support the efforts begun by "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," I am also currently drafting legislation that would create a grant program for school districts, like Cabell County, that seek to improve the health of their students by implementing a nutrition program that provides healthier, less-processed foods to their students.

If federal funds can provide the funding boost school districts need to provide healthier foods, I want to make sure we can set aside those funds to encourage these great initiatives. Studies show a healthier diet promotes the physical well being and academic development of our young people. I believe in the program's potential to pave the way to more nutritious menus in our schools, across W. Va. and the nation.

West Virginia has been at the forefront of efforts to improve school nutrition for the past five years—in fact it was the first state to implement many of the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine, which exceed the current national standards for school nutrition. Mr. Oliver's show continued this effort and definitely made an impact on the entire region and I believe our children will be better for it.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Jamie and wish him the best of luck at the Emmys in August.